

Joyce Wildlife Management Area Land Acquisition – Tangipahoa Parish, LA

The Project: To conserve outstanding wetlands and migratory bird habitat, The Conservation Fund is working with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries to acquire a 7,600+/- acre tract adjacent to Joyce Wildlife Management Area. The State of Louisiana plans to add this critical acreage to the Joyce Wildlife Management Area to increase the protected wetland area along Lakes Maurepas & Pontchartrain, expand outdoor recreation activities, and improve storm surge buffers within the Pontchartrain Basin.

Joyce Wildlife Management Area (WMA): The Joyce WMA is a 16,089 acre tract of State land located in southern Tangipahoa Parish, five miles south of Hammond, and three miles south of Pontchatoula. This area features cypress/ tupelo emergent wetlands, shallow lakes, sloughs and other intermittent water bodies. The WMA provides excellent waterfowl, shorebird and wading bird habitat. These wetlands, and associated uplands, are subject to backwater flooding and have historically been very popular for hunting and fishing.

Species Benefiting from Project: Bald eagle, Louisiana black bear, Brown pelican, Piping plover, Alligator snapping turtle, Cypress-Tupelo Swamp, Manatee, Osprey, Waterbird Nesting Colony, as well as waterfowl and neotropical migratory birds generally.

Proposed Acquisition: In 2004, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries identified a 7,600+/- tract adjacent to the Joyce WMA for acquisition and inclusion into the WMA. Working with The Conservation Fund, Wildlife & Fisheries has pursued several funding sources, including State funds, to complete this acquisition. The Fair Market Value of this acreage is approximately \$2,750,000. We have secured most of the funding, and the particular funding components are as follows:

- **\$1,050,000** - NOAA Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program – committed
- **\$1,000,000** – North America Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) - committed
- **\$250,000** – National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) – verbally committed
- **\$100,000** – State of Louisiana - committed

- **\$350,000** – Needed to complete the project

Project Status: NOAA, the State of Louisiana, and NAWCA have committed the noted funding. TCF has submitted the grant application to The National Fish & Wildlife Foundation for the \$250,000 (July 2005). NFWF has provided a verbal commitment and written commitment is expected shortly.

OCTAVIA PARTNERS

